Claims

1. A method executed by a provider of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising:

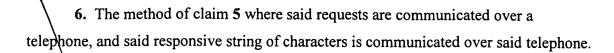
a first step of interacting with said user to receive an ID from said user and with a database to receive an ordered list of characters associated with said ID that were selected by said provider;

a second step of interacting with said user to receive from said user information responsive to requests placed to said user in the course of said interacting; and

a third step of authorizing said provision of service when said information received in response to said requests corresponds to a subset of entries in said ordered list of characters that is associated with said requests placed to said user, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who provides said ID.

- 2. The method of claim 1 where said first step is taken before said second step, and said third step succeeds said first step and said second step.
- 3. The method of claim 1 where said second step is taken before said first step, and said third step succeeds said first step and said second step.
- 4. The method of claim 1 where said characters are taken from the set {0-9,#,*}.
 - 5. The method of claim 1 where said second step comprises the steps of: generating a predetermined number of random variables; for each random number created in said step of generating
 - (a) requesting said user to provide a responsive string of characters that is related to said random number,
 - (b) receiving said responsive string of characters from said user, and
 - (c) flagging a number in said ordered list corresponding to said random number.





The method of claim 1 where said service comprises telecommunication service.

8. A method of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising the steps of: receiving a D from said user;

accessing a database to retrieve N ordered lists of characters associated with said ID, where N is an integer;

generating a predetermined number of random variables; for each random number created in said step of generating

- (d) requesting said user to provide a responsive set of characters that is related to said random number,
- (e) receiving said responsive set of characters from said user, and
- (f) flagging a number in each of said N ordered lists corresponding to said random number; and

authorizing said provision of service when the set of responsive numbers received in response to said challenges matches a corresponding set of flagged numbers in any of said N ordered lists of numbers, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who is associated with the ordered list that matches.

10. A calling card characterized by a table of characters.

The calling card of claim where said table has rows, one column contains a row number, and the other column contains a character string.

The calling card of claim \mathbf{N} where said characters are taken from the set $\{0, 9, \#, *\}$.



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The calling card of claim where said table has rows and more than two columns, where one column contains a row number, and the other columns contains other numbers.

The calling card of claim 10 further comprising an alpha-numeric string.

The calling card of claim 14 where said alpha-numeric string is related to an ID that is related to the numbers in said table.

16. The calling card of claim 19 further comprising a transparent collimating layer on said card, over said table.

The calling card of claim 10 further comprising means for magnifying.

18. The calling card of claim 19 further comprising means for narrowing field of view.